

Minutes from the Utilities Working Group Meeting June 15, 2006

Attendees

Jill Boone, San Mateo County RecycleWorks
Robert Cormia, Sustainable Silicon Valley
Bill Dickenson, Belmont City Council
Mario Panoringan, Colma-Daly City Chamber of Commerce
Jerry Hill, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
Deborah Gordon, Mayor of Woodside
Sepi Richardson, Brisbane City Council
Bruce Chamberlain, Senior Project Manager, Energy Solutions
Kathy Lavezzo, PG&E Account Manager
Nicole Sandkulla, Senior Water Resources Engineer, BAWSCA
Barbara Pierce, Mayor of Redwood City
Gina Blus, Facilitator

Not present

Mukesh Khattar, Director of Energy, Oracle Corp.

Action items

All: please check and let me know if you would be available to meet on the FIRST Thursday of the month at 3-5 pm rather than the THIRD Thursday, starting in October (see possible new dates at the end of these minutes). We are checking to see if we can prevent a conflict with one of the members. Please **respond by Friday, June 23** so we can finalize the meeting dates.

Terry: propose a new name for the group. Anyone with suggestions, please send them directly to Terry.

Nicole and Bruce: provide data on water/energy usage in San Mateo communities

Nicole: send a pointer to the Sonoma Plan and growth projections to Jill and Gina, please

Jill: send out the Sierra Club write-up on solar permit fees

->> http://www.recycleworks.org/greenbuilding/solar_fees.html
(and Kathy also sent out an article in the San Mateo Times that addresses the issue – thank you!)

Decided

Location: all meetings will be at BAWSCA's 1st floor conference room unless otherwise noted. BAWSCA is at 155 Bovet Road, San Mateo CA 94402.

Document management: we will post all agendas and related materials on the CMAQ committee website, <http://www.ccag.ca.gov/UWG.html>.

Decision-making: Consensus is preferred; if not achievable, but can move forward with 80% agreement if necessary. The degree of agreement will be indicated by the number of fingers (1-5) displayed during a vote.

Who will be affected by this energy strategy?: This task force will begin by developing recommendations for an energy strategy that will address:

- all (existing) users of energy in the county, both residential and commercial
- future energy users

When we have more information, we may prioritize some groups over others.

NOTES

Introductions

Deborah Gordon: Mayor of Woodside. EE (electrical engineer) by training and work experience; has some familiarity with distributed generation in the context of disaster recovery and with alternative power generation. Travels extensively for day job, but always reachable by phone.

Sepi Richardson: On Brisbane Council. Financial consulting background; very involved in upgrading energy in the Brisbane schools. Can make time to help.

Bruce Chamberlain: Certified energy manager, can assist with technical questions, especially on energy efficiency and renewables. Works with ABAG and PG&E to design and implement energy saving programs for local governments. Available to help.

Kathy Lavezzo: PG&E major account manager; manages questions regarding rebates, rates, reliability. Available to help.

Nicole Sandkulla: Civil engineer by training, 17 years in water, does water resources and conservation planning. BAWSCA is a special district created by the legislature. Available to help.

Barbara Pierce: Mayor of Redwood City. Social work and counseling background. Represents a diverse populace in Redwood City; must ensure recommendations make sense financially as well as environmentally.

Gina Blus: Lawyer, high-tech background, here as facilitator and to serve as staff.

Jill Boone: Manages RecycleWorks programs. background in green building and environmental efforts; sees need for energy programs. Available as staff.

Bob Cormia: Formerly an industry analyst, now teaches informatics and nanotechnology at Foothill, volunteers on climate change issues for Sustainable Silicon Valley. Very familiar with technology, reviewing business plans. Available to help, especially in the summer.

Bill Dickenson: 20 years in hotel industry; involved in renewable energy issues in Belmont. Belmont City Council.

Terry Nagel: Former journalist, communications officer for socially progressive foundation. Worked with PG&E to improve power reliability in Burlingame. Attending CA Civic Leadership Institute in summer and fall, can cross-pollinate issues; can also help with publicity, PR, website, outreach. Burlingame City Council.

Mario Panoringan: as CEO of Chamber of Commerce in Colma-Daly City, interacts with all size businesses and local governments.

Jerry Hill: President of Board of Supervisors. Concerned about having enough context and chance to provide for input for future energy investments and decisions.

Structural overview - Jill

This working group is an ad hoc subcommittee under CMAQ, the Congestion Management and Air Quality committee of C/CAG, (City/ County Association of Governments). Our task is to prepare recommendations for CMAQ regarding a 20-year

energy strategy plan for the county that, if approved, would then be passed on to C/CAG. There is no entity with authority across all jurisdictions that could implement our recommendations. As with recycling and other programs, some work may best be managed by each city and some might best be managed countywide.

Our recommendations will need to include funding sources for any programs and may include recommendations of financial incentives at the city and/or county level.

Strategic planning process overview - Gina

Using a facilitator and planning process is intended to make it easier for working group members to focus on the substantive work and maintain momentum. This group will begin by identifying the 5 Ws and H of the energy strategy plan: who it is for and who will be affected; what issues will be addressed, what goals and metrics for success will be chosen; where it will apply (San Mateo County and jurisdictions therein); when it will be delivered (an estimated 18 months); why it is needed (justifications that will spur the diverse stakeholders to action), and how the desired outcomes will be achieved (via a detailed work plan).

After working through the first 2 parts – who and what – Jill and Gina will draft the work plan for the group’s review and approval. The group will report in regularly to CMAQ, to ensure that we are operating according to their wishes and to keep members abreast of our discoveries and direction.

Scope; name

Questions were raised about the scope of the group’s activities, given the name “Utilities Working Group.” Energy, water, cable, transportation might all be covered over time, but the initial direction from CMAQ is to focus on energy. It was suggested that a more energy-oriented and energizing name might be appropriate; Terry will suggest an alternative.

Who

It was proposed that we start broadly and plan to address all users of energy in the county, both residential and commercial. Given plans for dense development, especially in the southern part of the county, the needs and impacts of and on future users should also be addressed. As we learn more about the issues and understand usage patterns, we may recommend targeting certain constituencies before others to achieve maximum benefits

(following the 80/20 rule, where targeting 20% of the population may fix 80% of the problem).

What

In answering the question, “What problem are we trying to solve?”, the following issues were identified as ones we may choose or need to address in the strategy.

- leaders must understand energy issues and enough context to assess and provide input to PG&E’s planned investments
- the interaction of various utilities, e.g. how water and telecom affect energy usage
- future energy capacity
- current and future production and transmission costs

- public awareness and understanding of the impact and implications of individual energy usage and actions
- educating students about the impact and implications of their actions
- how to maintain or improve the quality of life for the next generation [sustainability]
- how to sell the hard choices that may be needed
- social justice issues
- leveraging the work of other groups and organizations
- regulatory inconsistencies and financial disincentives
- mismatch between city and utility jurisdictional boundaries
- seek opportunities to find synergies and pool resources for common programs [be a good model for C/CAG]
- energy use is up
- energy costs are up
- environmental impact of energy production
- climate change
- return of nuclear power
- future energy production [and mix] is unknown
- skepticism about the need for change
- geopolitics; national security
- peak oil
- interdependence with San Francisco [because of geography and transmission lines]
- business development [the need to attract business and the opportunity to be a leader in green tech]

We will group these into categories and prioritize at the next meeting.

Assessment of the meeting

+ (positives)
 complementary skills in group
 location
 covered lots of ground

(prefer to change)
 ambiguity of meeting schedule
 prefer to end with action items for all

Possible date change for meetings: Due to one member's conflict on the 3rd Thursday of the month, please check your availability for the 1st Thursday of the month, 3-5 pm, starting in October. (The possible new meeting dates and the previously-announced meeting dates are both set forth below.) Let me know if you would be able to make the meeting if we moved it, or if you have a conflict. I will pass on the results so we can lock down the dates.

2006

July 20 (no change)
 Aug. 17 (no change)
 Sept. 21 (no change)

if 1 st Thursday...	if 3 rd Thursday...
Oct. 5	Oct. 19
Nov. 2	Nov. 16
Dec. 7	Dec. 21

if 1 st Thursday...	if 3 rd Thursday...
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2007

Jan. 4	Jan. 18
Feb. 1	Feb. 15
Mar. 1	Mar. 15
Apr. 5	Apr. 19
May 3	May 17
June 7	June 21
July 5	July 19
Aug. 2	Aug. 16
Sept. 6	Sept. 20
Oct. 4	Oct. 18
Nov. 1	Nov. 15
Dec. 6	Dec. 20